

August 19, 1953

Falls Church, Virginia.

Dear Don:

Many thanks for the check. My receipt is enclosed herewith.

I am sending you a translation of Dr. Docheff's letter to me for your information. Dr. Docheff has evidently not been able to raise enough money for his U.S. trip and is therefore postponing it. This is to be regretted because I believe that he could be very useful here.

Mary joins me in best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

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DATE 2006

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Translation.

Toronto,
August 14, 1953

I was anxious to write to you about the League. I assume and hope that you are going to the convention in New York because I am more and more convinced that the League is being used as a cover which should not be allowed.

When you were here several persons from Pittsburgh suspected of leftist tendencies were mentioned. The man who was in Europe was brought back for the same reason. On the other hand, we have seen how hard Koburov tried, and will try again in New York, to get on the board of the League. But we failed to notice something which was taking place under our noses and which may be more important than either the Pittsburgh family or Koburov. I can write to you freely trusting that my name will not be revealed and that whatever is necessary will be done without noise.

I was very much surprised to discover that the vice-president of the League for Canada, Ilia Bezov of Windsor, who is respected by everyone, is in fact a first class Communist economic agent here. Bezov is a member of the Macedonian Organization and was until recently a member of the committee of our newspaper. In other words, he has assured himself the reputation of a good citizen and an honorable man. In fact, however, the situation is quite different.

Ilia Bezov's brother in Bulgaria is a well known Communist economist. The Bulgarian Communists have no direct relations with the United States but they need dollars. Bulgaria today can get dollars only by selling Bulgarian products in America. You know that foreign trade in Bulgaria is a government monopoly. Private persons cannot export goods or trade with foreign countries. The government trades through its agents. Ilia Bezov receives goods from his "brother", carloads of white cheese, kashkaval, paprika, etc. which he sells. The dollars are sent to Bulgaria through various channels or American goods are purchased and sent to Europe from where they find their way into Bulgaria. If I should write to my younger brother who spent five years in a labor camp and is now a village physician, he would be sent back to camp even though I write only about the weather and his health. Bezov however, holds important posts in both the League and the Macedonian Organization. He goes to New York to receive the goods and is supposedly engaged in innocent trade, but in fact he is an agent of the Communist government. Bezov probably gives money to the Communists here for their organization and newspaper. For instance, in a recent number of "Novo Vreme" there was a large advertisement about the Bulgarian goods he handles. He is vice-president of the League and yet he advertises in the Communist paper. At the convention in New York he may again be nominated for vice-president. It is my opinion that he should not be elected. We forced him out of our newspaper committee here. In the same way he should be eased out of the League.

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I have already written to Iliev in Pittsburgh that the vice-president should be someone from Toronto and have suggested Mrs. Grudev for the position. I did not tell Iliev what I am writing to you. This question should be settled quietly. Please go to New York and do all you can to protect the League from people like Bezov. If you go, please meet Dr. Kalin Koichev of New York, Dr. Vasil Velez of Detroit and Dr. George Paprikov of Chicago. Please do not tell them the facts about Bezov. They know that we would like to have Mrs. Grudev for vice-president. These men represent our friends and you may wish to discuss with them the work of the convention.

I am very sorry that I shall not be able to come. I have not asked for a visa because I am not ready to travel in the United States. As soon as my preparations are made, I shall apply for a visa and will then write to you.

Please write again, etc.

Dr. Ivan Docheff.